



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ENVIROFACTS

3/3/99

National Park Service
Hazardous Waste Management &
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INSTRUCTIONS

What are ENVIROFACTS?

ENVIROFACTS:

- Are a set of tools designed to help National Park Service (NPS) facilities and operations staff deal with their environmental management responsibility.
- Contain plain English summaries of key environmental management topics relevant to NPS operations and, in most cases, a series of compliance assessment questions.
- Answer the most common questions about key NPS environmental management topics.
- Present NPS expectations of all facilities and operations.

Who are ENVIROFACTS designed for?

ENVIROFACTS are designed for NPS staff most likely to be responsible for the selected environmental management topics. In most cases this occurs at the park level.

Because of their close proximity to the environmental management issue, these targeted individuals are in the best position to help prevent pollution and ensure compliance.

Who else can use ENVIROFACTS?

ENVIROFACTS can be used by anyone needing fundamental information on key NPS environmental management topics, including parks, regions, and other offices.

Outside the NPS, users may be contractors or visitors, who need to learn about NPS environmental management issues and requirements. Because ENVIROFACTS are highly customized for NPS facilities and operations, they may not be as useful to other organizations with different operations and governing authorities.

How are ENVIROFACTS to be used?

There are two sides (pages) to ENVIROFACTS. Each has an important, but different, purpose.

Side one is the “face” page. It presents summary information about key environmental management topics affecting NPS operations in plain English. For those who need more detail, side one also contains references to related ENVIROFACTS and sources of more information, such as: (1) regulations or; (2) NPS policy. Side one is designed for quickly orienting personnel on the fundamentals of each environmental management topic. In this regard, it is useful as an initial or refresher training aid. Side one may be posted near a job site as a reminder of environmental management responsibilities or a collection of ENVIROFACTS face pages (side one) may serve as a simple job-focused environmental manual. For example, all ENVIROFACTS related to vehicle maintenance (e.g. Used Oil, Waste Battery Management, etc.) could be made available in the maintenance garage where it is more likely to be used.

Side two is the “back”. It consists of a tool, such as a series of simple, self-explanatory questions that users can ask to assess park environmental compliance status or pollution prevention opportunities. In this case “compliance” means adherence to NPS expectations on each environmental management topic. NPS expectations may be based upon regulations, internal policy, Executive Orders, or other applicable authorities. Side two is designed for conducting a simple assessment

of compliance status or pollution prevention opportunities. For example, personnel wishing to evaluate existing procedures for handling used oil, waste batteries, or waste pesticides can quickly assess park operations by reviewing the page two ENVIROFACTS checklists on these subjects.

In summary, a collection of ENVIROFACTS may be assembled by a user to create a simple environmental manual or job aid (side one) or an environmental assessment system (side two).

What topics are addressed by ENVIROFACTS?

The specific topics addressed by the ENVIROFACTS were selected because they represent areas historically needing attention at NPS facilities and operations. They were identified and selected by a panel of NPS Regional, Park, and headquarters staff who, from their direct experience, understand current environmental management needs.

As the ENVIROFACTS are used and more is learned about environmental information needs, additional ENVIROFACTS may be developed.

Is the information contained in ENVIROFACTS all that is needed?

The information contained in ENVIROFACTS should answer most questions from the primary user - NPS park or facility level personnel.

Large amounts of additional information are available on each of the environmental management topics addressed by ENVIROFACTS. This large amount of additional information and level of detail will be useful to a smaller set of advanced users. For those needing more detailed information, specific regulatory citations are mentioned in ENVIROFACTS.

Because of wide variations, neither side one nor side two contains specific information about state or local regulatory requirements. The user is cautioned about this limitation.

How will ENVIROFACTS be updated?

Environmental requirements change over time because regulations change, new regulations become effective, or policy interpretations change. Consequently it is important for users to ensure that ENVIROFACTS contain current information.

To help users understand the “age” of ENVIROFACTS a publication date is imprinted in the margin on page one. Although there is no guaranteed “shelf life”, users of ENVIROFACTS should seek more recent versions if they are more than a few years old. For critical situations, do not rely solely upon ENVIROFACTS.

A key benefit of ENVIROFACTS is that as new information becomes available, only one sheet needs to be republished as opposed to an entire manual or book.

What if I have questions?

Questions or comments on ENVIROFACTS should be directed to the Hazardous Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Team/WASO. Telephone 202/565-1240 x3.